

Attorney Docket: 48900-22

Serial No.: **10/716,150**
Amdt. dated December 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated September 15, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The bib ~~[wrap-around-absorbent-shield]~~ of claim 15, wherein ~~[the absorbent material]~~ at least one of the neck portion, the inner surface of the neck portion, and/or the outer surface of the neck portion comprises at least one of sponge and sponge-like material.
3. (Currently Amended) The bib ~~[wrap-around-absorbent-shield]~~ of claim 15, wherein ~~[the absorbent material]~~ at least one of the neck portion, the inner surface of the neck portion, and/or the outer surface of the neck portion comprises at least one of absorbent paper and absorbent polymer.
4. (Currently Amended) The bib ~~[wrap-around-absorbent-shield]~~ of claim 15, further comprising:
means for affixing the neck portion ~~[wrap-around-absorbent-shield]~~ to the subject.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) The bib ~~[wrap-around-absorbent-shield]~~ of claim 4, wherein the means for affixing comprises:
means for connecting two portions of the neck portion ~~[wrap-around-shield]~~ so that the neck portion ~~[wrap-around-shield]~~ encircles the ~~[sealing portion of the]~~ subject's neck ~~[body]~~.

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7. (Currently Amended) The bib [~~wrap-around absorbent shield~~] of claim 6, wherein the means for connecting two portions of the neck portion [~~wrap-around shield~~] comprises at least one of hook and fastener means [~~Velcro™ strips~~], at least one button and buttonhole, at least one snap, and/or strips of material which can be tied together.

8-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A bib for protecting a subject from at least one of fluids, semi-fluids, and a mixture of either fluids or semi-fluids and solids comprising:

a neck portion forming a semi-tight seal with the flesh of the neck of the subject, said neck portion comprising:

an inner surface [~~absorbent material~~] comprising polyurethane with a polyethylene coating, which forms a [~~at least a portion of the surface of the neck portion where the~~] semi-tight seal [~~is formed~~] with the flesh of the neck of the subject; and

an outer surface comprising non-woven polypropylene;

wherein the combination of the semi-tight seal and the absorbent material of the inner surface [~~at the semi-tight seal~~] forms a barrier which substantially prevents said at least one of fluids, semi-fluids, and a mixture of either fluids or semi-fluids and solids from flowing onto the flesh of the neck below the semi-tight seal; and

an apron portion connected to said neck portion for covering at least a portion of the chest of the subject, said apron portion comprising:

an outer surface comprising polyurethane [~~an absorbent material~~] for preventing said at least one of fluids, semi-fluids, and a mixture of either fluids or semi-fluids and solids from flowing when said at least one of fluids, semi-fluids, and a mixture of either fluids or semi-fluids and solids falls upon said outer surface; and

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an inner surface comprising polyethylene [~~a liquid-repellent material~~] for preventing fluid on the outer surface of the apron portion from coming through the material of the apron portion and coming into contact with the covered portion of the subject's chest.

16-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The bib of claim 15, wherein the apron portion and the neck portion are [~~one of~~] permanently connected [~~and detachably connected~~].

20. (Original) The bib of claim 15, wherein the bib is used in at least one of a dental procedure, a dermatological procedure, a surgical procedure, a hair care procedure, and a culinary procedure.

21. (New) The bib of claim 15, wherein the apron portion and the neck portion are detachably connected.

22. (New) The bib of claim 15, wherein the neck portion further comprises:
a semi-rigid, resilient member for maintaining a shape which will maintain the semi-tight seal with the subject's neck.

23. (New) The bib of claim 22, wherein the semi-rigid, resilient member is located at least partially inside the neck portion.

24. (New) The bib of claim 22, wherein the semi-rigid, resilient member comprises at least one of a metal and a polymer.

25. (New) The bib of claim 15, wherein the neck portion further comprises:
an elastic material for forming the semi-tight seal with the subject's neck.